

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for establishing secure access to a media peripheral in a home via a node in a communication network, the method comprising:
  - attempting to identify previously acquired security data associated with the media peripheral, and if said security data is not found:
    - exchanging information associated with the home; and
    - acquiring security data associated with the media peripheral; and
  - utilizing said acquired security data associated with the media peripheral to facilitate secure communication between the media peripheral and the communication network.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said security data is a digital certificate.
3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising reading said security data from the media peripheral.
4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising transferring said security data to a media exchange server coupled to the communication network.
5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising authenticating said security data.
6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising, if previously acquired security data associated with the media peripheral is found, acquiring at least one identifier associated with the home.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising validating said acquired security data prior to communicating over the communication network.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising registering the media peripheral for subsequent operation.

9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:  
establishing at least one user identifier to facilitate communication of the media peripheral over the communication network; and  
registering the identifier.

10. The method according to claim 8, further comprising distributing security data for said registered media peripheral.

11. A method for establishing secure access to a media peripheral via a node in a communication network, the method comprising:  
detecting when the media peripheral is communicatively coupled to the node;  
acquiring security data associated with the media peripheral; and  
utilizing said acquired security data to facilitate secure communication between the media peripheral and the communication network.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein said security data is a digital certificate.

13. The method according to claim 11, further comprising reading said security data from the media peripheral.

14. The method according to claim 11, further comprising transferring said security data to a media exchange server coupled to the communication network.

15. The method according to claim 11, further comprising authenticating said security data.

16. The method according to claim 11, further comprising registering the media peripheral for subsequent operation.

17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising distributing security data for said registered media peripheral.

18. A system for establishing secure access to a media peripheral in a home via a node in a communication network, the system comprising:

at least one processor that attempts to identify previously acquired security data associated with the media peripheral, and if said security data is not found:

    said processor exchanges information associated with the home; and

    said processor acquires security data associated with the media peripheral; and

    said processor utilizes said acquired security data associated with the media peripheral to facilitate secure communication between the media peripheral and the communication network.

19. The system according to claim 18, wherein said security data is a digital certificate.

20. The system according to claim 18, wherein said at least one processor reads said security data from the media peripheral.

21. The system according to claim 18, wherein said at least one processor transfers said security data to a media exchange server coupled to the communication network.

22. The system according to claim 18, wherein said at least one processor authenticates said security data.

23. The system according to claim 18, wherein said at least one processor acquires at least one identifier associated with the home if previously acquired security data associated with the media peripheral is found.

24. The system according to claim 23, wherein said at least one processor validates said acquired security data prior to communicating over the communication network.

25. The system according to claim 24, wherein said at least one processor registers the media peripheral for subsequent operation.

26. The system according to claim 25, wherein said at least one processor:  
establishes at least one user identifier to facilitate communication of the media peripheral over the communication network; and  
registers the identifier.

27. The system according to claim 25, wherein said at least one processor distributes security data for said registered media peripheral.

28. The system according to claim 18, wherein said at least one processor is at least one of a computer processor, a media peripheral processor, a media exchange system processor and a media processing system processor.